

September 2, 1959

Dr. Marvin Wolfgang
Department of Psychology
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Wolfgang,

Your appearance with John Hart on this morning's 7 a.m. CBS News leaves unclear whether you are stationed in Washington.

Your study on assassinations for the President's Commission on Violence, of which the commentary of the broadcast described you as director of research, interests me very much. On those recent ones in our history, I believe I have the unhappy distinction of being the one who has spent more time studying them than anyone else in the world. In my own work I have encountered a number of what are described as "studies". Not one has any of the attributes of genuine scholarship. All amount to propaganda.

If you deal with the recent cases, especially those of the President and Dr. King, on what basis can you decide who the assassin or assassins are? If you do not know, positively, beyond any possibility of doubt, why they really are, how can you make the study?

You cannot possibly know without your own, elaborate and exceedingly time-consuming inquiry. I doubt any of you has the time or disposition for this.

Yet if you do not, are you, too, not engaging in propaganda and calling it science?

It is not possible to make a detached study of the evidence against Oswald and Ray, as officially presented, without realizing in each case that rather than incriminating it is exculpatory. It is not possible to examine the official investigation, in each case, without understanding that each was contrived, would not and could not withstand cross examination, in court, for each amounts to a frameup.

The needs of the nation, of society, place a great burden upon you. You have assumed it. It requires something other than new propaganda from government, a reinforcement of its existing contrivances ordained fact.

I would welcome assurances yours will not be another manufacture labelled "science", that you have not begun with a falacy, assassins who weren't.

I would also appreciate being put on your mailing list, to get everything you issue, for my own work and for the future, when I expect my files to be part of a university archive.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg